

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/881,620

Examiner

Courtney Thomas

Applicant(s)

RICHARDSON, MARTIN

Art Unit

2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/01/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5 and 7-75.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 6/14/2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ("as replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____. |
| 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No. <u>10/01/03</u> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <i>See Continuation Sheet.</i> |

Continuation Sheet (PTOL-37)

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Continuation of Attachment(s) 9. Other: Submitted drawings are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawing will be required as the application has been allowed.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-5 and 7-75 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
3. **As per claim 1 and dependent claims 2-5 and 7-33**, the examiner found no reference in the prior art that disclosed or made obvious a method for producing optical emissions from a target source comprising the steps of: **forming a metallic solution that includes molecular liquids or mixtures of elemental and molecular liquids at room temperature and passing the metallic solution in microscopic droplets, each having a diameter of approximately 10 micrometers to approximately 100 micrometers into a target source** as recited in independent claim 1.
4. **As per claim 34 and dependent claims 35-46**, the examiner found no reference in the prior art that disclosed or made obvious a method for producing optical emissions from a target source comprising the steps of: **forming microscopic liquid metal droplets at room temperature without heating the droplets and passing the droplets, each having a diameter in the range of approximately 10 to approximately 100 microns into individual target sources** as recited in independent claim 34.
5. **As per claim 47 and dependent claims 48-60**, the examiner found no reference in the prior art that disclosed or made obvious a method for producing optical emissions from liquid droplet target sources comprising the step of: **irradiating the target sources with a high energy source to produce optical emissions that are debris free and cannot cause debris damage to surrounding components** as recited in independent claim 47.

6. **As per claim 61 and dependent claims 62-75**, the examiner found no reference in the prior art that disclosed or made obvious an apparatus for producing optical emissions from liquid point sources comprising: **means for generating optical emissions from irradiated target sources that are debris free and cannot cause debris damage to surrounding components** as recited in independent claim 61.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Courtney Thomas whose telephone number is (703) 306-0473. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F (9 am - 5 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on (703) 308 4858. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9318.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0530.

CT
Courtney Thomas


DAVID V. BROWN
PRIMARY EXAMINER